

_____ BILL NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY _____
(Primary Sponsor)

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 9, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION ALLOWING PUBLIC BODIES OR AGENCIES OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND ITS SUBDIVISIONS THE RIGHT TO DENY THE ABILITY TO EXAMINE DOCUMENTS OR TO OBSERVE THE DELIBERATIONS WHEN THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION WOULD IMPAIR THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF ITS CITIZENS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Article II, section 9, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

"Section 9. Right to know. No person shall be deprived of the right to examine documents or to observe the deliberations of all public bodies or agencies of state government and its subdivisions, except in cases in which the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure or in cases in which the release of information would impair the ability of the government to provide for the safety of its citizens."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** This amendment is effective upon approval by the electorate.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Submission to electorate.** This amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2004 by printing on the ballot the full title of this act and the following:

☐ FOR allowing a public safety exception to the right to know.

☐ AGAINST allowing a public safety exception to the right to know.

- END -